

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to FORCE their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is the worst abuse I've ever seen by a media conglomerate.

To make matters worse, the content of the "documentary" is not truthful, and is simply meant to assassinate the character of the Presidential candidate, John Kerry, that is likely to beat the candidate, George W. Bush, which Sinclair CLEARLY wants to win. They want to air it days before the election, after all four debates, as a last minute smear. It is vicious and must be stopped!

The 2004 Bush campaign has been the most dishonest and manipulative of any campaign run in the United States' history. Now a big campaign contributor wants to use public airwaves, it wants to ORDER their stations to air a purely propagandistic program just days before the most important election of our lifetimes. And they want to do this to turn people off, so their candidate can win by apathy and cynicism, not by his abilities and his proven record. This is destructive of our democracy.

The FCC must stop this ABUSE of the public's right to the airwaves! The FCC is there for exactly this kind of regulation. And what about the Fairness Doctrine? Is there no requirement any more that content of "news" programs be fair and accurate?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.